

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: KUWAIT REACTIONS TO ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON

REF: KUWAIT 1563

1. SUMMARY. SUBSEQUENT TO THE INITIAL MFA REACTION TO ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON (REPORTED REFTEL) THERE HAS BEEN PUBLIC CONDEMNATION OF THE INVASION BY THE AMIR, SEVERAL MINISTERS, AND THE KUWAIT WORKERS CONFEDERATION. THE GOK REPORTEDLY WILL SEND "MEDICAL AID" TO LEBANON. PRESS TREATMENT OF THE US AND ISRAEL HAS BEEN HIGHLY CONDEMNATORY, BUT SOME EDITORIALISTS HAVE BLAMED ARAB STATES FOR THEIR "SILENCE" AND CONTINUED DISUNITY IN THE FACE OF THE ISRAELI ACTION. END SUMMARY.

2. OFFICIAL REACTIONS. IN A CABLE TO PRES. SARKIS, THE AMIR REPORTEDLY CALLED THE ISRAELI ACTION "BRUTAL AGGRESSION" WHICH CAUSED KUWAIT "GREAT ANXIETY" AND PROMISED KUWAITI
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SUPPORT FOR "THE UNITY OF LEBANON AND DEFENSE OF ITS INTEGRITY." A CABLE TO ARAFAT FROM THE AMIR REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "ATTACKS ON PALESTINIAN BROTHERS' CAMPS IN LEBANON" ILLUSTRATE ZIONIST EXPANSION, WHICH IN TURN DEMANDS ARAB UNITY AND CALLS FOR CONTINUED KUWAITI "SUPPORT FOR THE LEGAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

3. A STATEMENT BY MIN/CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSEIN REPORTEDLY CRITICIZED "THE INTERNATIONAL POWERS" FOR THEIR DISREGARD FOR THE VENTS IN LEBANON, WHICH "ENCOURAGES THE ZIONIST REGIME." HUSSEIN URGED THESE POWERS TO CURB ISRAEL AND STOP ALL ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL, AND HE CALLED FOR ARAB UNITY.

4. DEP PRI MIN/FON MIN SABAH AL-AHMAD IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT THE GOK PLACED KUWAIT AT THE DISPOSAL OF "LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN BROTHERS" AND TO HAVE REVEALED THAT THE GOK HAD INSTRUCTED ITS UN SECURITY COUNCIL REP TO EXERT ALL EFFORTS TO STOP THE "CARNAGE" IN SOUTH LEBANON AND INSURE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

5. MINISTER FOR AWKAF AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS AL-HAJJI REPORTEDLY GAVE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS WHICH REFERRED TO ISRAEL'S "BARBARIC WAR," WHICH "KILLED HUNDREDS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE," AND SHOWED THAT ISRAEL IS DISINTERESTED IN PEACE. HE IS REPORTED AS DESCRIBING THE ISRAELI INVASION AS "IMPELLED BY COLONIALIST COUNTRIES," PART OF "CRIMINAL IMPERIALISTIC PLAN AGAINST THE ISLAMIC ARAB PRESENCE," AND AS CALLING FOR "OUR YOUNG MEN" TO BE PREPARED TO MEET FORCE WITH FORCE.

6. KUWAIT WILL SEND "MEDICAL AID" TO THE PALESTINIANS, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PLO, AND TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT MADE BY PRI MIN/HEIR APPARENT UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIEKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLAH AL-SABAH.

7. UNOFFICIAL REACTIONS. THE KUWAIT WORKERS CONFEDERATION (KWC) REPORTEDLY CONDEMNED ISRAEL AND CALLED ON THE "MASSES" TO DONATE ASSISTANCE TO HELP THE LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES. REPORTEDLY, THE KWC BEGAN COLLECTING RELIEF FUNDS.

8. PRESS TREATMENT OF ISRAEL AND THE US HAS BEEN HIGHLY CONDEMNATORY, BUT SOME WRITERS ALSO BLAMED ARAB GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR "SILENCE" AND DISUNITY. AL-QABAS (MARCH 16) CALLED BEGIN "A MAN OF VIOLENCE, NOT OF PEACE" AGAINST WHO THE US STANDS "IMPOTENT," IN SPITE OF US HUMAN RIGHTS PRETENSIONS. ON MARCH 18, IT CALLED ON SAUDI ARABIA TO TURN ITS BACK ON THE US AND ASKED THAT KING KHALID "GO TO MOSCOW TO CONCLUDE A DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS IN THE NAME OF ALL ARABS," MAKING CLEAR, NEVERTHELESS, THAT ARABS REJECT COMMUNISM. AL RAI AL AM AND AL-WATAN (MARCH 18) CHARGED THAT THE US HAD "COORDINATED" WITH ISRAEL BEFORE THE INVASION TO SECURE LAND FOR FUTURE BARGAINING AND TO DESTROY THE PALESTINIANS AS A POLITICAL FORCE. SEVERAL EDITORIALS CHIDED UNNAMED ARAB GOVERN-

MENTS FOR FAILURE TO REACT TO THE INVASION, EVEN VERBALLY,
WHICH AL RAI AL AM (MARCH 18) CALLED A "TRAGEDY" AND
FOR WHICH AL-WATAN (MARCH 17) DEMANDED EXPLANATIONS.
AL-QABAS (MARCH 17) CALLED ON PRES. SADAT TO RECONSIDER
HIS POSITION AND LEAD A MOVE TOWARD ARAB UNITY.
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